



NAVAL AIR ENGINEERING STATION

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PRESS RELEASE

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STARBASE Lakehurst Endorsed

Freeholders support science & math opportunities for county students

March 12, 2008, Lakehurst, NJ – The Ocean County Board of Chosen Freeholders and Dr. Bruce Greenfield, Superintendent of Schools for Ocean County, has announced their support of the Department of Defense's (DoD) educational outreach program called STARBASE which will be located and administered at Naval Air Engineering Station (NAES) Lakehurst.

STARBASE is geared at improving the science, technology, engineering and math education skills of youths aged 10-12. It begins at the fifth grade level and incorporates experiential learning, simulations and experiments in aviation and space related fields. The program also addresses drug-use prevention, health, self-esteem and life skills.

The goal of STARBASE is to raise the interest and improve the knowledge of these students by exposing them to the technological environment and positive role models found on military bases.

In a report by the National Academy of Sciences Committee, it was found that in math and science, American 15 year-olds ranked 27th out of 39 countries, with our edge in technological and scientific advancements continuing to shrink. It is the aim of STARBASE to have students and their parents join with educators to view mathematics and science as vital for meaningful technological careers, thus motivating, equipping and challenging students to pursue study in these disciplines.

STARBASE, which will be conducted at NAES Lakehurst, is currently scheduled to begin in September 2009. The program, funded by DoD, requires 25 classroom contact hours per student, conducted one day per week, over a five week period. Approximately 28 classes per year with 20-35 students per class may be conducted, along with summer break sessions with open enrollment opportunities for all students who may not have had a chance to attend a regular session.

A STARBASE Academy staff of two instructors and an administrator will be hired to run the program. Volunteer military and civilian personnel from the base will also lend their expertise and knowledge to the program.

Mr. Jules Lewycky of NAES Lakehurst has been designated the program manager for the base and will be working with the school districts in Ocean County to implement the administrative details to initiate STARBASE in the coming year.